

Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
for the
Escure Recreation Improvements EA
(EA# OR135-07-13)

Based on the effects discussed in the Environmental Assessment, I have determined that the Proposed Action is not a major federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. None of the environmental effects identified meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared. This determination is based on the following:

1. Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts discussed in the EA have been disclosed. The physical and biological effects are limited to the site of the proposed action and adjacent lands. **Rationale:** Ground work is sufficiently far enough from the creek that it does not pose any threat to water quality, and neither will it cause damage to wildlife or vegetation. The proposed vault outhouse is self-contained and non-leaching.
2. Public health and safety would not be adversely impacted. **Rationale:** Installing a permanent vault outhouse will improve on existing rented sanitary facilities, and providing developed camping and picnicking facilities will concentrate use where sanitary facilities are provided, thereby reducing sanitation problems across a wider area in dispersed recreation settings. Thus public health and safety hazards will be reduced and facilities improved to protect the public.
3. There would be no adverse impacts to areas with unique characteristics or areas of critical environmental concern. **Rationale:** Improving camping, picnicking, and equestrian use facilities in a single semi-developed location will have the beneficial effect of reducing impacts to habitat from dispersed camping and picnicking across a wider area.
4. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment. **Rationale:** The proposed improvements of recreation facilities have not generated controversy over effects.
5. There are no known effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. **Rationale:** Past outhouse installations and campground improvements have not caused unanticipated effects.
6. This alternative does not set a precedent for other projects that may be implemented in the future. **Rationale:** Each recreation facilities improvements project is individually designed to meet site specific objectives and avoid significant negative effects.
7. This alternative is not related to any other existing or anticipated actions with cumulatively significant impacts. **Rationale:** No related management actions with

cumulative effects, by any program, are in process, planned or anticipated. Removing the cattle pen currently located near the proposed recreation improvements site and committing cattle holding and transport operations to existing livestock holding facilities across the bridge, cumulative effects from cattle operations will be reduced at the proposed recreation improvements site.

8. Based on previous and ongoing cultural resource surveys, and through required mitigation, no adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified or anticipated.

Rationale: BLM consulted with The Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, who concurred that the project will have no effect on historic properties. No comments were received from consulted Native American Tribes. Monitoring of ground disturbing activities by a BLM archaeologist will minimize effects to any unknown, buried resources.

9. No adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their habitat that was determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act was identified. **Rationale:** No Federally threatened or endangered wildlife occur in the area.

10. This alternative is in compliance with relevant Federal, State, and local laws, regulations and requirements for the protection of the environment. **Rationale:** The project is compliant with all relevant environmental laws, regulations and requirements. Development of campsites and installation of vaulted toilets would have a negligible or no effect to the water quality of Rock Creek.

/S/ June E. Hues
June E. Hues
Field Manager, Border Resource Area

10-22-08
Date